

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9786

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJ: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S PREPARATIONS FOR DISCUSSION OF ILLEGAL
IMMIGRANT PROBLEM WITH SECRETARY

1. DR. ARTHUR F. CORWIN, WHO IS ON LEAVE FROM THE UNIVERSITY
OF CONNECTICUT AND A LONG-TIME STUDENT OF THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT
PROBLEM, IS PRESENTLY IN MEXICO DOING RESEARCH ON THIS SUBJECT.
FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH BARONA LOBATO IN FOREIGN SECRETARIAT,
HE WAS CALLED TO MEET WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA ON FEBRUARY
25. BEFORE THIS MEETING, HE CALLED AT EMBASSY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT
WITH MINISTER, POLITICAL COUNSELOR, CONSUL GENERAL AND INS REP-
RESENTATIVE. DR. CORWIN IS WELL INFORMED ON GENERAL SUBJECT AND
BELIEVED PURPOSE OF RABASA'S SUMMONS WAS TO DEVELOP ARGUMENTS
IN FAVOR OF MEXICO'S POSITION ON ILLEGALS.

2. DR. CORWIN CALLED POL COUNSELOR TODAY FOLLOWING MEETING
WITH RABASA. HE INDICATED ANOTHER MEETING WITH FONSEC SCHEDULED
THIS WEEK. HE ASKED POL COUNSELOR'S VIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING:

A. WOULD IT BE ADVISABLE FOR GOM TO REQU*ST THAT USG RECONSTITUTE
THE SPECIAL STUDY GROUP ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM MEXICO
(CRAMTON COMMITTEE). HE QUOTED FONSEC OFFICIALS TO THE EFFECT
THAT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN GOM AGENCIES AND CORRESPONDING USG
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AGENCIES WERE DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE. POL COUNSELOR EXPRESSED

SURPRISE, POINTED OUT THAT EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE ACCESS TO WIDE RANGE OF GOM CONTACTS ON THIS SUBJECT, THAT SIMILAR CONTACTS AVAILABLE TO MEXICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON, AND THAT RABASA HAS DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, GOM HAS NOT TAKEN FULL ADVANTAGE OF CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION ON THIS SUBJECT; E.G., EMBASSY HAS FOR MONTHS SOUGHT NAMES OF LOCAL MEXICAN BORDER OFFICIALS TO WHOM INS AND OTHER U.S. AGENCIES COULD PASS INFORMATION ON PERSONS INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING ILLEGALS INTO U.S. POL COUNSELOR INDICATED THAT GOM COULD OF COURSE PROPOSE RECONSTITUTION OF CITED COMMITTEE NEVERTHELESS.

B. DR. CORWIN WAS SOMEWHAT CONFUSED AND UNCERTAIN OF HIS FACTS ON FOLLOWING: HE UNDERSTOOD THAT FONSEC WAS MULLING OVER POSSIBILITY OF RAISING GENERAL ISSUE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AT FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IN MEXICO CITY. CORWIN UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT ISSUE MIGHT NOT BE RAISED BY GOM, WHICH WOULD INSTEAD STIMULATE OTHER COUNTRY TO DO SO. POL COUNSELOR COULD ONLY EXPRESS PERSONAL OPINION THAT CONSIDERATION OF SUCH CLEARLY BILATERAL ISSUE AT CONFERENCE MIGHT OPEN DOOR TO INNUMERABLE OTHER SUCH ISSUES AND MIGHT THUS SEEM INAPPROPRIATE IN THE CONTEXT.

3. COMMENT: FROM CORWIN'S COMMENTS, IT IS APPARENT THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA IS BRAINSTORMING ILLEGALS ISSUE BEFORE NEXT DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARY. IDEAS SUCH AS ABOVE MAY NOT IN FACT BE RAISED ON FURTHER REFLECTION BY RABASA. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, AND CORWIN SO INDICATES, THAT RABASA AND SECRETARIAT STAFF FEEL IMMENSELY FRUSTRATED OVER WHOLE ILLEGALS ISSUE AND ARE ALMOST DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR SOME NEW ANGLE OF APPROACH. CORWIN REPORTS GOM FEELS IT HAS GONE OUT ON A LIMB ON THIS ISSUE, I.E., BY FREQUENT DISCUSSION IN PUBLIC, SOMETHING WHICH THIS EMBASSY HAS CONSISTENTLY RECOMMENDED AGAINST.
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